

STARK COUNTY FAIR HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Stark County Fair Housing Department (SCFHD) is a governmental agency dedicated to the attainment of equal housing opportunities for all persons under the Fair Housing Law. Our primary goal is to ensure enforcement of laws against housing discrimination.

To assure that equal housing opportunity for all is being provided, SCFHD will:

- counsel you on your fair housing rights;
- counsel on landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities;
- process and investigate your fair housing complaint;
- sponsor educational workshops, seminars, and trainings;
- monitor discrimination compliance;
- provide relevant housing literature.

PROTECTIONS UNDER THE FAIR HOUSING LAWS

The Federal Law, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 as amended, and State Law makes it illegal to discriminate in housing based on:

- ❖ **Race**
- ❖ **Color**
- ❖ **Sex** (including sexual harassment)
- ❖ **Religion**
- ❖ **National Origin**
- ❖ **Ancestry**
- ❖ **Handicap**
- ❖ **Familial Status** (presence of children)
- ❖ **Military Status**

EQUAL ACCESS FOR LGBT PERSONS

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) persons shall receive equal access to housing in HUD programs regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

FAIR HOUSING AMENDMENT ACT

The Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1988 (FHAA) strengthened the Civil Rights Act of 1968 to include families with children and disabled persons.

FAMILIAL STATUS

Prohibits discrimination in housing against families with children under the age of 18 living with a parent or person having legal custody of such individuals. Familial status also applies to any person who is pregnant or in the process of securing legal custody of children under the age of 18. Unless a building or community qualifies as housing for older persons, it may not discriminate based on familial status.

HANDICAP/DISABILITY

Prohibits discrimination in housing with respect to a person with a physical or mental disability (including hearing, mobility and visual impairments, chronic alcoholism, chronic mental illness, AIDS, HIV, mental retardation) that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Handicap also applies to any person who has a record of having such impairment, or being regarded as having such impairment. Such term does not include current, illegal use of or addiction to a controlled substance.

WHAT IS HOUSING DISCRIMINATION?

- Different treatment given to some homeseekers because of their race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, familial status, handicap or military status.
- Making different terms and conditions for buying, selling or renting housing.

- Denying housing is available for inspection, sale or rental (**when it really is**).
- Refusing a handicap person to make a reasonable modification to a dwelling.
- Refusing a reasonable accommodation request by a handicap person.
- Steering to and from certain neighborhoods or certain complexes.
- Making, printing, publishing, or posting statements or advertisements that a house or apartment is available **exclusively** to persons of a certain group.
- Refusing financing, appraisals, insurance, or offering them with different or unfavorable terms to certain areas or classes of people.
- Threatening, coercing, intimidating or interfering with anyone exercising a fair housing right or assisting others whom exercise that right.

***Housing discrimination is
illegal and punishable by law!***











POSSIBLE SIGNS OF DISCRIMINATION

Comments like these can be signs of housing discrimination:

- “This building is only for adults.”
- “Sorry, that apartment has just been rented.”
- “We do rent to families with children, but we will need an additional deposit.”
- “This apartment complex is not suitable for children – it does not have a play area.”
- “I’m sorry, but a parent cannot share a bedroom with a child.”
- “Sorry, we have a no pet policy, including guide dogs and companion animals.”

WHEN SEARCHING FOR A HOME OR APARTMENT

DO WRITE DOWN:

-  the name of the manager or agent;
-  the address of the building;
-  the apartment number;
-  the number of bedrooms;
-  personal information requested of you;
-  information that you volunteered;
-  the requirements for occupancy;
-  when the unit will be available;
-  how you found out about the apartment or house;
-  amount of rent and deposit.

INFORMATION

Stark County Fair Housing Department provides assistance, free of charge, to persons residing in Stark County, including the city of Alliance. Canton and Massillon residents need to call the appropriate city.



If you were robbed, would you report it? Don't let them rob you of your civil rights. Report housing discrimination! It is up to you to make the call.

**THE FAIR HOUSING LAW PROTECTS
YOUR RIGHT TO LIVE WHERE
YOU WANT!**

FAIR HOUSING IS THE LAW!



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

Stark County Regional Planning Commission
Stark County Fair Housing Department
201 3rd Street NE, Suite 201
Canton, Ohio 44702-1211
330-451-7775
Fax: 330-451-7990
Website: www.rpc.co.stark.oh.us

Including the City of Alliance

This brochure is intended to convey information. Nothing in this brochure should be relied upon as legal advice, nor should this brochure be regarded as creating an attorney-client relationship.

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Freedom of Choice

**To Live Anywhere You Can Afford!
Housing Discrimination is Illegal!**

**Stark County Regional Planning Commission
Stark County Fair Housing Dept.
330-451-7775**

